



## **OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

### **Illinois Educational Opportunity for Military Children Council**

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

10:00am – 12:00pm

2<sup>nd</sup> and Capitol, 205 Statehouse, Governor's Video Conference Room, Springfield

100 W. Randolph, Suite 16-100, Governor's Video Conference Room, Chicago

Call-in Number: 866-434-5269 Pass Code: 1722969#

### **Minutes**

#### **In attendance:**

##### **Springfield:**

Amber Kirchhoff—Governor's Office

Julie Smith—Governor's Office

Delio Calzolari—Lt. Governor's Office

Maria Capoccia—Lt. Governor's Office

Dr. Sam McGowen—Commissioner/Superintendent of Schools, Mascoutah

Dr. Cynthia Coil—School Liaison Officer, Scott Air Force Base

Tony Kolbeck—IL Department of Veterans Affairs

Dr. Todd Koehl—Superintendent, O'Fallon

Lizanne Destefano—IL P-20 Council

##### **Chicago:**

Amy Amizich—Governor's Office

Deb Strauss—IL P-20 Council

Anne Kondziela—School Liaison Officer, Naval Station Great Lakes

##### **Phone:**

Darren Reisberg—IL State Board of Education

Col. Mark Whinnery—Scott Air Force Base



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### **Welcome and Introduction:**

Julie Smith—Introductions of all guests. Julie Smith discussed general background of P-20 Council and the Illinois Educational Opportunity for Military Children Council.

### **Summary on P20:**

Julie Smith—23 member council appointed by the Governor meeting quarterly to discuss educational issues from pre-school to graduate school, and workforce education.

Five Committees:

1. Data, Assessment, and Accountability
2. Finance and Government
3. Teacher and Leader Effectiveness
4. School, College, and Career Readiness
5. Family, Youth, and Community Engagement (FYCE)

Purpose of FYCE Committee has logical connections with the goals of IEOMCC. FYCE co-chairs, Deb Strauss of the IL PTA and Kathy Ryg of Voices for IL Children will participate in IEOMCC meetings and act as liaisons between the IEOMCC and FYCE.

### **Other Discussion**

Dr. McGowen—suggested that a seat on the P-20 council be reserved for a member of IEOMCC. Lizanne Destefano—observers and general public are welcome at all P-20 meetings, however there are no additional voting seats available on P-20.

Julie Smith—brief background on the Joint Education Leadership Committee (JELC), and the Interagency Military Base Support and Economic Development Committee (IMBSEDC) both chaired by the Lt. Governor.

### **Summary of Legislation and Council Charge:**

Tony Kolbeck—Compact's intent is to provide uniformity and stability for military children transferring schools both stateside and from overseas. The updated statute for the compact also requires that the Compact have representatives from all Active Duty installations in Illinois—Scott Air Force Base, Naval Station Great Lakes, and Rock Island Arsenal. Compromises



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

on some of the Compact language were negotiated with the School Management Alliance in order to ensure that the Compact would in no way dictate public school policy in Illinois. Paying dues to National Compact is based on the number of military students in the state. Due to the signing of HB 2870, Illinois schools are now required to ask parents to indicate whether or not they are military service members during the enrollment process. Response to this request is voluntary and the parents are not obligated to identify themselves as military service members. The passing of HB 2870 will help the state of Illinois determine how many military children are enrolled in its school and where they are enrolled.

### **Update on 2010 National Military Interstate Children's Compact:**

Dr. McGowen—provided agenda from 2010 National Compact meeting and gave a brief overview on the various committees on the National Compact:

1. Compliance Committee
2. Rules and Policy Committee
3. Training Committee
4. Finance Committee
5. Executive Committee

Dr. McGowen—stated that according to the National Compact language, the military representative from each active duty base has to be officially appointed by the DoD. The DoD will not appoint anyone who is an employee of DoD (i.e., civilian DoD employees). Also, according to DoD, the 3 military representatives from SAFB, NSGL, and RIA, must be currently serving on Active Duty.

Tony Kolbeck—suggests that we get more clarification on this rule. There is some confusion as to whether or not the military representative need to be on Active Duty or whether or not they can be civilians.

Dr. McGowen—provides more insight on Rules Committee:

1. No state dues should exceed \$60,000
2. No state should pay less than \$2,000 in dues
3. Illinois currently pays \$8,000 in dues

### **General Discussion:**

Dr. McGowen—discusses issues with kindergarten age cut-off dates. There needs to be an agreed upon definition for enrollment and attendance of kindergarten for students who are



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

transferring from other states or from overseas. Currently, a kindergarten student needs to only have attended 1 day of class at the 'sending' state's school to enroll as a kindergarten student in the 'receiving' state's school. There is much confusion and debate on this issue since all states and some school districts have different cut-off dates and ages for kindergarten enrollment.

Dr. Doil—identified an issue with families transferring to Illinois from out of state. Since not all of the National Compact rules apply to Illinois, families are transferring with the false impression that all of the National benefits apply to them, when in fact they do not. The suggestion was made to link what is relevant to Illinois to the P-20 site in order to prevent future confusion. Another suggestion was made to provide future training programs and resource materials for guidance counselors and administrators to better assist families.

### **Data on Families:**

Anne Kondziela—so far data that is collected on families is voluntary and it does not account for retirees and discharged service members. Because the transferring of official school records can take several weeks, some families are prevented from timely enrollment of their children, and School Liaison Officers do not have a way of collecting this data.

### **Legislative Efforts for Spring:**

Tony Kolbeck—depending on clarification from the National Compact, there may be a need to adjust the language regarding the military representatives for the Compact. As of yet, there is no drive for changing the original sunset date of 2015 for the Compact. The next 3 years gives the Compact an opportunity to identify challenges and make progress on these areas. Council will evaluate the continued need for the Council closer to the sunset date.

### **Action Items:**

Julie Smith—this body should reconvene after the National Compact meeting in November. The Compact should meet in conjunction with the P-20 Council which meets quarterly. P-20 Council will look at adding the Compact to their annual reporting responsibilities.

### **Next Meeting:**

Next P-20 meeting is January 25, 2012. The next Council meeting should be scheduled alongside the P-20 meeting.